

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1-8 and 16-23 have been elected for prosecution. Claim 31 has been canceled. Of the elected claims, claims 1 and 16 are independent.

Request for Reconsideration of Non-Elected Claims

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of non-elected claims 9-15, which are dependent on allowed claim 1, and non-elected claims 24-30, which are dependent on allowed claim 16. As had been indicated in the Election Requirement of August 7, 2003, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 16 are generic as they are drawn to the arrangement shown in Figures 1 and 12. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.141, Applicants respectfully request that the election requirement be withdrawn and non-elected claims 9-15 and 24-30 be considered in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-8 and 16-23 are allowed.

Drawings

Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement that the drawings filed with the original application on February 6, 2002 have been approved.

Claim Rejection

Claim 31 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by JP 05297399. Applicants have canceled claim 31 and thus respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In addition, Applicants submit that because claims 1 and 16 have been allowed, Applicants respectfully request that the claims dependent on claims 1 and 16 be allowed as well. In particular, Applicants request that an indication of allowance be made for claims 9-15, which are dependent on claim 1, and for claims 24-30, which are dependent on claim 16.

CONCLUSION


Applicants solicit an early indication of allowance of claims 1-30, including elected claims 1-8 and 16-23, as well as dependent claims 9-15 and 24-30.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert W. Downs (Reg. No. 48,222) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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